

have a large black ocellus, surrounded by a white margin, and extending from the fourth to the tenth soft ray of the dorsal. When these fish frequent brackish water, they generally become of a deep purple colour.

Very common in all pieces of fresh water, and excellent eating when of a large size. They take a bait freely, but are not so easily captured by a net, as they appear to dive down into the mud.

ETROPLUS MACULATUS, Bloch.

Pulluttay meen (Mal.).

B. vi. D. $\frac{18}{10}$. P. 14. V. $\frac{1}{5}$. A. $\frac{13}{9}$. C. 16. L. l. 35. L. tr. 21.

Length of specimens from $1\frac{5}{10}$ to $3\frac{1}{10}$ inches.

Having captured about fifty specimens, on July 15th, 1863, from the fort ditch, for the purpose of minutely examining their colours, no two could be said to be exactly similar. The seventeen or eighteen rows of golden spots were more or less apparent in all: but in some the three blotches on the side were black, in others of emerald-green, whilst all intermediate shades were perceptible; some were glossed over with purple, which was absent in others.

Common in every paddy-field, tank, or piece of fresh water; and even occasionally in the backwater within the influence of the tides.

Eaten by the natives, but, as they rarely exceed 3 inches in length, are not esteemed by the Europeans.

2. NOTICE OF A NEW WHALEBONE WHALE FROM THE COAST OF DEVONSHIRE, PROPOSED TO BE CALLED *ESCHRICHTIUS ROBUSTUS*. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

A better proof could not be required of the little attention that has hitherto been paid to the study of the Whales of the seas surrounding the British islands than the fact that, almost immediately after the appearance of my paper on British Whales, in which I had doubled the number of species that had before been recorded as found on our coast, a bone has been discovered showing most distinctly that a species of Whalebone Whale which had only been described from an imperfect skeleton buried in the sand on the coast of Sweden is also an inhabitant of our seas.

Mr. Pengelly has kindly brought to me one of the middle cervical vertebræ of a Finner Whale, which was washed ashore at Babbacombe Bay, in Torbay, on the coast of Devonshire, on the 24th of November 1861. It is so different in its form and proportions from the cervical vertebræ of any of the species of British Whales which I described in my paper on those animals (printed in the 'Proceedings' of the Society for 1864), that I lose no time in bringing a description of it before the Society; for, as I have already observed, I consider that we must treat remains of Whales as we do fossil animals—describe them from a single bone, if no more can be procured, if, after careful study and comparison, we are satisfied that the bone in

question differs in important characters from the corresponding bone in the hitherto known species.

In this case, though as yet we only know a single bone, there cannot be any doubt,—1, that the body of the vertebra differs in its form and thickness from the vertebra of any Finner Whale yet described; 2, that the thickness of the lateral processes is exceedingly different from that of those parts in any other known species; 3, that the size, or rather width, of the canal of the spine, as compared with the size of the body of the vertebra, differs from the width found in any Whale yet examined.

On comparing this vertebra with the drawing of the cervical vertebræ of *Balænoptera robusta*, described by Professor Lilljeborg in his very excellent paper on the Scandinavian Whales, which he had been so kind as to transmit to me, I was induced to believe that the bone sent by Mr. Pengelly might belong to that species; but, for greater certainty, as I cannot read the Professor's Swedish description of the species, nor get it properly translated here, I sent a tracing of the bone to Upsal, and the Professor has replied that he believes that it belongs to the species he described. He has also sent me a drawing of one of the cervical vertebræ of his species, which certainly agrees with the one from Babbacombe Bay in every particular, except in being a trifle larger in all its parts.

The addition of this animal to our marine fauna, and the procuring of the remains of a second specimen of a species which only rested on the description of an imperfect skeleton found imbedded in the sand on the coast of Sweden, is important.

In my "Notes on the Whalebone Whales, with a synopsis of the species," published in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' (vol. xiv. p. 343), I gave the reason why I thought *Balænoptera robusta* was probably more allied to *Megaptera* than to *Physalus*, and I there proposed for that species a new subgenus, under the name of *ESCHRICHTIUS*. The examination of the vertebra from Devonshire, and the additional figures which Professor Lilljeborg has so kindly sent to me, confirms me in the idea that it is of a distinct form, proper to be considered as a genus. Professor Lilljeborg observes, "Depuis peu vous considérez que mon *B. robusta* appartient aux genre *Megaptera*. D'après les principes que vous avez suivies dans la distinction des genres des *Balænoptères*, cette espèce, sans doute, doit faire type d'un genre particulier."

In the cervical vertebræ of all the genera of Finner Whales which I have examined, and which have hitherto been described, the width of the canal of the spinal marrow is rarely more than half the width of the body of the vertebra: thus in *Physalus* the canal is $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide, and the body of the vertebra 11 inches; in *Megaptera*, which had the largest and widest canal known until the discovery of this Whale, the canal is 5 inches, and the body of the vertebra 9 inches wide; but in this Babbacombe Whale the canal is $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and the body of the vertebra only $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide. The cervical vertebræ of the *Balænidæ* have a large canal for the spinal marrow, compared with the size of the body of these vertebræ.

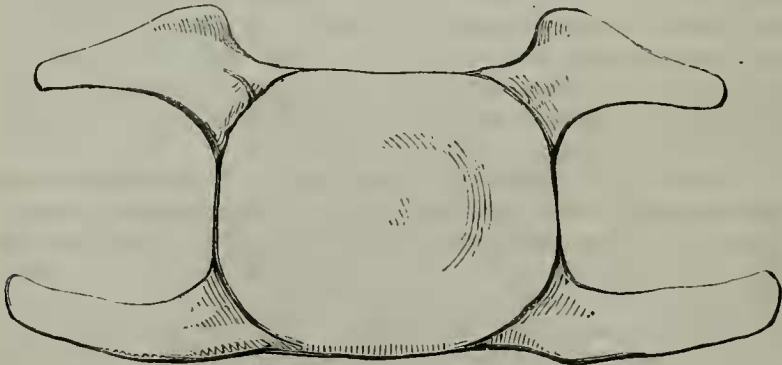
The large size of this canal in *Megaptera*, *Pæscopia*, and *Cuvierius*, as well as peculiarities in other parts of the skeleton in the two former genera, shows that the long-armed Humpbacked Whales have some characters which make them, in some respects, more allied to the Right Whales, or *Balænidæ*, than the other Finner Whales. *Eschrichtius* is separated from both *Megaptera* and *Pæscopia* by the regular and well-developed form of the lateral processes, which are even larger and longer, compared with the size of the body of the vertebra, than are found in any of the species of *Phybalus* or *Benedenia*.

The canal of the spinal marrow in *Eschrichtius* is broader, compared with the size of the body of the vertebræ, than it is in the last cervical vertebra of *Balæna biscayensis* (the canal in this species becomes wider, compared with its height, as it approaches the dorsal vertebræ); for its width is only four-fifths of the width of the body of the vertebra, while in *Eschrichtius* it is eight-eighths of the same measurement.

In the study of these animals, I have observed that the form and proportion of the canal of the spinal marrow constitute one of the best characters for the distinction of the Whales. Under these circumstances, I propose to form a genus for this Whale, under the name

ESCHRICHTIUS.

The external form and size of pectoral fin, and the position and form of the dorsal fin, unknown. Lower jaw with a very low, strongly developed coronoid process. Vertebræ 60. Ribs 15—15. The cervical vertebræ free, the body small, thick, suborbicular, quadrangular, rather wider than high; lateral processes of the third to the seventh vertebræ not forming a ring; the canal of the spinal marrow very broad, compared with the width of the body of the vertebræ, and very high, subtrigonal, with rounded angles. The second cervical not known. Bladebone with a distinct acromium and



Vertebra of *Eschrichtius robustus*.

coracoid process. Arm-bones broad, not longer than the humerus. Fingers, phalanges half as long again as broad. The breastbone

trigonal, rather longer than wide; front part broad, arched out in front, broadly truncated at the sides; the hinder part at first suddenly tapering, for half its length, and then gradually tapering to a point behind.

The body of the cervical vertebra of *E. robustus* from Babbacombe is very thick, and of a nearly uniform thickness; front and hinder surfaces nearly flat; the sides are nearly straight, the lower one being the widest and most arched out. The upper and lower lateral processes are strong; the upper one subtrigonal, slightly bent down, and nearly on a level with the articulating surfaces of the body; the hinder one rather compressed above, broader and somewhat flattened on the lower edge. The width of the body $7\frac{1}{4}$, the height 6 inches. The upper processes $3\frac{3}{4}$, and the lower $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; but they are evidently broken and sea-worn at the end.

This vertebra appears to be either the fourth or fifth cervical, as the lateral processes are nearly on the same plane as the articulating surface; while in the anterior or posterior cervicals they are usually either bent forwards or backwards. It differs from other cervical vertebræ in the squareness of its form, the straightness of the sides, the smallness of the size, and the very great and equal thickness of the body. It is evidently the bone of an adult animal, as the epiphyses are completely united to the body of the vertebra.

The body of the vertebra is nearly as wide and thick as that of the corresponding one in *M. longimana* (width of body 9, height 7, width of neural arch $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in widest part), at the same time that the space between the bases of the neural arch is nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch wider, and the lateral processes are very much thicker and more developed, than in the vertebra of *M. longimana*.

It differs in the same characters, but in a greater degree, from the corresponding cervical vertebra of *Physalus* (width of body 11, height 7, width of neural arch $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches); for in that genus the body of the vertebra is thin and transversely more oblong, and the canal of the neural arch not so broad, compared with the width of the body of the vertebra.

3. NOTES ON THE MYOLOGY OF A SPECIMEN OF CERCOPITHECUS SABÆUS. BY ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.Z.S., F.L.S.

In October last I received from the Society's collection a fine adult female Monkey of the above-mentioned species. It may perhaps be worth while to record the conditions presented by some of those muscles which show such interesting variations in the order Primates.

The levator claviculæ arose from the transverse process of the atlas only, and, descending beneath the sterno-mastoid, was inserted into the acromion and the anterior third of the spine of the scapula, but not at all into the clavicle. The trapezius was entirely superficial to it.

The omo-hyoid was wanting.